Regents Teaching Award Winners Announced

The Provost’s Office is pleased to announce University of West Georgia’s 2017 nominees for the USG Regents Teaching Awards:

Dr. Rebecca Harrison
English
Regents’ Scholarship of Teaching & Learning Award

Dr. Matt Varga
Communication Sciences and Professional Counseling:
Felton Jenkins, Jr.
Hall of Fame Faculty Award

Dr. Adriana d’Alba
Educational Technology and Foundations:
Regents’ Teaching Excellence Award for Online Teaching
Please congratulate these colleagues on their success and wish them well as they take the next step to compete at the system level.

We are grateful to those who served as judges this year. These colleagues invest a considerable amount of energy, expertise, and thoughtful judgment as they select the UWG nominees who will compete for the USG awards. Thanks to: Mary Bishop, Leanne DeFoor, Camilla Gant, Anne Gaquere, Christopher Jett, Meg Pearson, Keith Pacholl, Susan Welch, Julia Whisenhunt, and Jeffrey Zamonstny.

Complete College GA: Beyond Financial Aid

Earlier this month (Oct.) a pack of (administrative) wolves ventured to the Complete College Georgia Beyond Financial Aid conference held by the University System of Georgia (USG) in Macon. Our team included Dr. John Head, Dr. Melissa Tarrant, Elaine Harper, Jessica Wiggins, and Dr. David Jenks. The conference began with an introduction by our very own Dr. Michael Crafton who was on site in his role as Interim Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Academic Officer. Every institution in the state was represented and each had time to present on behalf of their campus.
The USG defines the initiative as: "... a toolkit designed to help two- and four-year institutions close attainment gaps for low-income students. BFA expands the concept of "financial supports" for college beyond grants, scholarships and loans and describes six college-tested strategies for helping low-income students overcome the significant challenges created by limited resources. BFA features a self-assessment that college teams can use to analyze their service capacities and an interpretation guide to help map out their first steps toward strengthening these capacities."

The discussions were informed by data provided by the USG and can be found here: http://www.completegeorgia.org/sites/default/files/meetings/BFA2016/infographics/UWG.pdf

Our group completed the BFA Self-Assessment for the institution and discovered that we were very similar to a lot of other institutions in that we do very well in some areas and not so well in others. Groups were then given time to reflect on how improvements could be made immediately and long term that would help low income students deal with many of the challenges they face in higher education. If you have any questions and you see any of the attendees around campus, please feel free to ask questions!

Go West, Go Wolves!!

LEAP Update:

On Thursday, September 8th, David Newton and Cher Hendricks hosted a LEAP Symposium for the Student Affairs and Enrollment Management (SAEM) leadership team. Over the half-day symposium, four teams of about 10 each worked through a series of questions about ways SAEM and Academic Affairs could best work together to achieve LEAP goals. Teams also discussed how SAEM is currently helping students reach the LEAP essential learning outcomes and explored new possibilities for supporting students in achieving them. Each group provided their recommendations at the end of the Symposium, and these recommendations have been shared with the LEAP Steering Committee.

A LEAP subcommittee on the First Year Experience course, co-chaired by Ryan Bronkema and Jessica Critten, has been charged with making recommendations for the new course by February 2017. Our goal is to offer the new FYE course in Fall 2017. In May, the Center for Teaching & Learning will host course design workshops for faculty who wish to teach the new course. If you are interested in teaching the new FYE course, get in touch with David Newton, LEAP Coordinator.

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